

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method of ~~protecting~~ reducing apoptotic cell death in endothelial cells of the intestine in sepsis comprising administering to said a human an effective amount of a pharmaceutical preparation comprising xenon or a xenon gas mixture.

16. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to~~ claim 15 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains 5 to 90% by volume of xenon.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains 5 to 30% by volume of xenon.

18. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to~~ claim 15 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation additionally contains oxygen, nitrogen and/or air.

19. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to~~ claim 15 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation additionally contains helium, NO, CO, CO₂, other gaseous compounds and/or inhalable medicaments.

20-24. (canceled)